

European Family Law: The Brussels IIa Regulation  
Language Training: Seminar for judges  
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### **Workshop: Solving a case study on cross-border child abduction**

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Peter (German national) and Emma (French national) since 2008 have been working together at a subsidiary of a multinational company in Vilnius, Lithuania. Here they fell in love with each other and got married in 2010. In May 2011 their son Ben was born.

After the birth of the child, Emma took a 1-year maternity leave and Peter continued working at the company. Peter worked long hours and did not do much in terms of caring for the baby. The change in lifestyle put strain on the family. The relationship between Peter and Emma deteriorated and eventually broke up by the summer of 2013. Emma moved to live into another apartment in Vilnius together with the child. Peter was facing problems with alcohol by that time.

On 2014 by the judgment of Vilnius District Court Peter and Emma were divorced. By the same judgment, Emma was named as a residential parent of the child and Peter was granted contact rights with the child every Saturday from 10 AM to 6 PM.

In 2016 Emma left the work at the company. She told Peter that she needed to take a breath and to spend some time with her parents in France. So she and Ben left for France with a one-way ticket. Since then Peter has never seen the child as Emma's parents were strongly against his visits.

After two months, Peter tried to convince Emma to return to Vilnius, but she said that she needed more time. Peter is devastated. He has no idea what to do.

**Can you help Peter? Explain the steps he must take and the course of the procedure that will follow.**

**Supplement: let us assume that Peter applied to French court for the child return order, but the French court has refused his application. What can he do?**